

WASTE SECTOR: SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

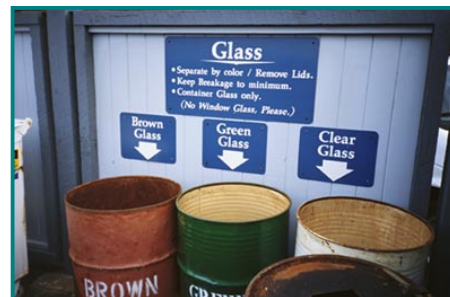
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Waste Diversion Program for Greenhouse Gas Reduction

In 1989, Iowa established a goal to reduce the amount of waste disposed in 2000 to 50% of the 1988 level. Iowa focused on the waste sector, in part, because landfills represent the second largest source of methane emissions in the state. Waste diversion, through source reduction, recycling, and composting, can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in three principal ways:

- Emissions associated with resource extraction are avoided.
- Emissions associated with materials manufacturing are avoided or reduced.
- Emissions associated with waste disposal (e.g., landfill methane) are avoided.

Iowa's local comprehensive solid waste planning agencies submit goal status reports, which the state compiles and uses to track the state's progress in reaching the 50% diversion goal. One specific action taken to attain the diversion goal is a statewide ban on yard waste disposal.



Results:

In 1995, the state achieved 33.5% diversion. This resulted in nearly 600 thousand MTCE (metric tons of carbon equivalent) of avoided GHG emissions in resource extraction and material manufacturing processes. If the state achieves its 50% diversion goal, nearly 1 million MTCE of GHG emissions will be avoided.

Waste Diverted	Cost Benefits	Greenhouse Gas Reductions
1,307,221 tons/yr (1995)	NA	575,589 MTCE/yr (1995)

Principal Actors:

Iowa's waste diversion initiative is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with local comprehensive solid waste planning agencies.

Additional Information:

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